

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 17 and 30, and add Claims 36-51, to read as follows.

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) An ink jet recording head comprising:

a recording element substrate provided with a discharge port group for discharging ink;

an electric wiring substrate electrically connected with said recording element substrate;

a supporting member for holding and fixing said recording element substrate and said electric wiring substrate;

a sealing area requiring sealing, formed by said supporting member, said recording element substrate and said electric wiring substrate;

a filler retaining portion ~~comprising a stepping portion of said recording element substrate and said supporting member,~~ said filler retaining portion being disposed adjacent to a side face of said recording element substrate having no electrode terminals arranged therefor, and said filler retaining portion communicating with said sealing area;

a supporting plate ~~provided with an opening portion for said recording element substrate to be in contact with said supporting member,~~ for holding and fixing said electric wiring substrate by being inclusively placed between said electric wiring substrate and said supporting member to hold and fix said electric wiring substrate; and

a supporting substrate for holding and fixing said recording element substrate by being inclusively placed between said recording element substrate and said supporting member[[,]]

~~wherein at least said sealing area is filled with a thermohardening filler, the thermohardening filler being hardened after being filled.~~

18-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) An ink jet recording head comprising:

a recording element substrate provided with a discharge port group for discharging ink;

an electric wiring substrate electrically connected with said recording element substrate;

a supporting member for holding and fixing said recording element substrate and said electric wiring substrate;

a sealing area formed by said supporting member, said recording element substrate and said electric wiring substrate;

a filler retaining portion comprising a stepping portion of said recording element substrate and said supporting member, said filler retaining portion being disposed adjacent to a side face of said recording element substrate having no electrode terminals arranged therefor, and said filler retaining portion communicating with said sealing area;

a supporting plate ~~provided with an opening portion for said recording element substrate to be in contact with said supporting member, for holding and fixing said electric wiring substrate by~~ being inclusively placed between said electric wiring substrate and said supporting member ~~to hold and fix said electric wiring substrate~~; and

a supporting substrate for holding and fixing said recording element substrate by being inclusively placed between said recording element substrate and said supporting member,

wherein said ink jet recording head is made by a process comprising the following steps:

injecting thermohardening filler into said filler retaining portion;

filling the sealing area with the thermohardening filler injected into said filler retaining portion by heating the filler to flow; and

hardening the filled thermohardening filler.

31. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 30, wherein said supporting substrate is provided with a communicating hole communicating said filler retaining portion arranged on a reverse side of said supporting member with a portion between said recording element substrate and said supporting plate.

32. (Currently Amended) An ink jet recording head according to Claim ~~24~~ 30, wherein said filler retaining portion is tapered thinner toward said recording element substrate, and wherein a diameter of a hole of said filler retaining portion tapered thinner toward

a leading end thereof is substantially equal to a diameter of a communicating hole of a supporting substrate.

33. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 30, wherein a plurality of communicating holes are arranged to communicate with said filler retaining portion.

34. (Previously Presented) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 30, wherein a communicating hole arranged for said supporting substrate is itself to become a filler retaining portion.

35. (Canceled)

36. (New) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 17, wherein said filler retaining portion is an opening portion arranged on a reverse surface of said supporting member.

37. (New) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 17, wherein sealing resin is filled from said filler retaining portion onto a circumference of said recording element substrate.

38. (New) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 17, wherein said filler retaining portion is arranged toward a vicinity of a center of a reverse side of a portion electrically connecting said recording element substrate and said wiring substrate.

39. (New) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 17, wherein said filler retaining portion is tapered thinner toward said recording element substrate.

40. (New) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 17, wherein said filler retaining portion comprises portions arranged to be positioned on a sealing location on one side of said recording element substrate and on a sealing location on an opposite side of said recording element substrate.

41. (New) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 17, wherein said supporting substrate is provided with a communicating hole communicating said filler retaining portion arranged on a reverse side of said supporting member with a portion between said recording element substrate and said supporting plate.

42. (New) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 39, wherein a diameter of a hole of said filler retaining portion tapered thinner toward a leading end thereof is substantially equal to a diameter of a communicating hole of a supporting substrate.

43. (New) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 17, wherein a plurality of communicating holes are arranged to communicate with said filler retaining portion.

44. (New) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 17, wherein a communicating hole arranged for said supporting substrate is itself to become a filler retaining portion.

45. (New) An ink jet recording apparatus provided with a carriage having an ink jet recording head according to Claim 17 mounted thereon.

46. (New) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 30, wherein said filler retaining portion is an opening portion arranged on a reverse surface of said supporting member.

47. (New) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 30, wherein sealing resin is filled from said filler retaining portion onto a circumference of said recording element substrate.

48. (New) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 30, wherein said filler retaining portion is arranged toward a vicinity of a center of a reverse side of a portion electrically connecting said recording element substrate and said wiring substrate.

49. (New) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 30, wherein said filler retaining portion is tapered thinner toward said recording element substrate.

50. (New) An ink jet recording head according to Claim 30, wherein said filler retaining portion comprises portions arranged to be positioned on a sealing location on one side of said recording element substrate and on a sealing location on an opposite side of said recording element substrate.

51. (New) An ink jet recording apparatus provided with a carriage having an ink jet recording head according to Claim 30 mounted thereon.